



State Representative John E. Stripp

Dear Friends,
The 2005 legislative session had mixed results for Easton, Redding and Weston. While I opposed the 2005 - 2007 budget because the tax increases it imposes disproportionately impact our towns, other measures of importance to the 135th District became law, including the governor's \$1.3 billion transportation package, which I supported.

The legislation provides \$486 million to acquire 342 new passenger rail cars for Metro North and provide maintenance facilities for them; \$187 million for improvements on I-95; and \$ 7. 5 million to purchase 25 transit buses.

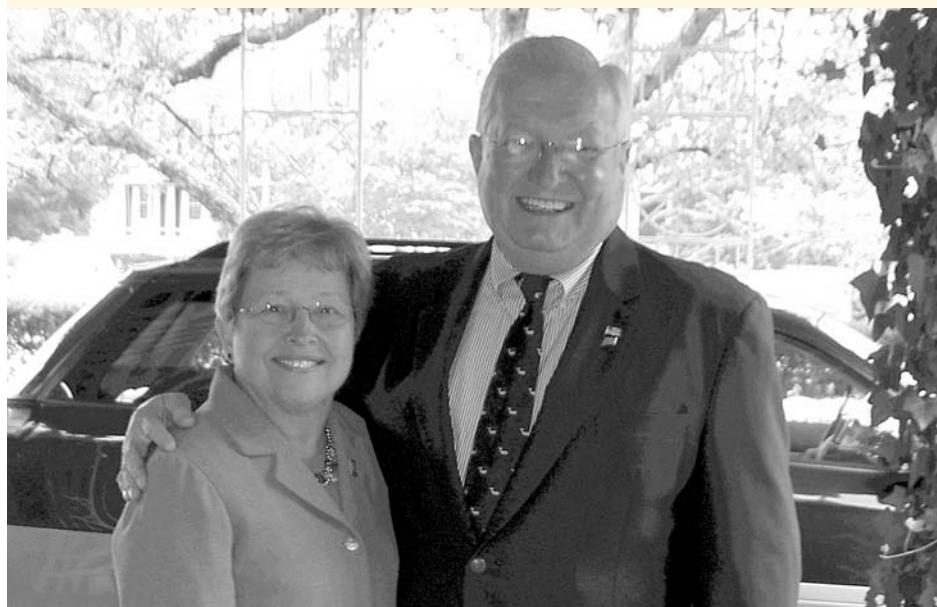
Supplemental grants for local school districts also were authorized under legislation I supported. The funding, which will be distributed to our towns in 2006 and 2007, comes from this year's \$777 million surplus. The grants are in addition to each town's annual Education Cost Sharing (ECS) grant.

In addition, grants totaling \$27,500 each were approved for Redding and Weston to help the towns develop state certified computer assisted mass appraisal systems to provide for fairer and more accurate revaluations and to improve assessment and tax collection practices.

Federal homeland security and anti-terrorism grants also were authorized for the 135th District's towns. Easton's grant amounts to \$32,577; Redding's, \$34,044; and Weston's, \$38,748.

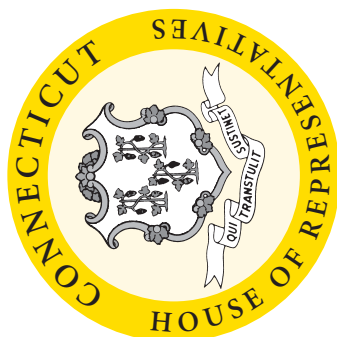
Thank you for the honor and privilege of representing you at the Connecticut General Assembly in Hartford.

Sincerely,



Rep. Stripp and U. S. Rep. Nancy Johnson, R-5th District, discuss issues of concern to the 135th District. Rep. Johnson is a ranking member on the powerful House Ways and Means Committee, which has jurisdiction over the tax code and trade policy.

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2005 LEGISLATIVE REPORT



State Representative
JOHN E. STRIPP
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Representative Stripp takes part in debate on the floor of the state House of Representatives during the 2005 legislative session.

PROTECTING YOUR INTERESTS

Voting for Fiscal Responsibility

During the 2005 session, I opposed tax increases that targeted Easton, Redding and Weston families. Our state has the highest federal, state and local tax burden per person and Fairfield County towns pay far more in state taxes than they get back in state grants.

Transportation Action

For Fairfield County, the most important legislative action taken in 2005 was the adoption of the governor's \$1.3-billion transportation package, which I supported. It provides funding to acquire 342 new passenger railcars for Metro North; purchase more transit buses; and eliminate numerous I-95 bottlenecks.

Fighting for Fair School Funding

I will continue to fight for a more equitable distribution of state education aid to our towns to enhance the quality of education in our public schools. Under the current school aid formula the state sends \$9,000 per pupil to students in the cities, while suburban communities receive as little as \$100 per student.

Protecting Property Rights

I voted to support Connecticut property owners in the wake of a recent Supreme Court decision allowing the City of New London to seize residents' homes to make way for an economic development project. I voted for a proposal to limit the authority of state and local governments to take property through eminent domain.

Ethics Reform

The State Ethics Commission was abolished and replaced with a Citizens Ethics Advisory Board and an Office of State Ethics under an act I supported.

Reforming the State Contracting Process

Governor Rell implemented reforms, that I supported, which will restore trust in the integrity of the state contracting process by ensuring contracts are awarded on their merits, not in return for bribes and favors.

Campaign Finance

I have worked to remove special interest money from political campaigns for many years and will continue to fight for this kind of reform in the future. Strict financial limits and full disclosure are a better approach than using our tax dollars for political campaigns.

Stem Cell Research

I supported a law committing \$10 million a year from surplus funds for stem cell research that could lead to new treatments for several diseases and chronic medical conditions.

Bi-state Long Island Sound Protection

I cosponsored a law that creates a New York - Connecticut Committee to help protect Long Island Sound. The committee will recommend measures to avoid, minimize, and mitigate the impact of proposed industrial or other uses of the Sound's public resources.

Clean Diesel Plan

I supported an act requiring the state to develop a plan to reduce the health risks from diesel pollution and to meet federal air quality standards for fine particulate matter.

Clean Car Incentive Program

I voted for legislation to require the Department of Environmental Protection to develop a plan to reduce the sales tax for new motor vehicles that have low greenhouse gas emissions.

Encouraging Research and Development in CT

The state Office of Workforce Competitiveness is required to establish four new grant programs to prepare college students for careers in research and development and spur research collaboration between academia and industry under a new law I supported.

Fostering Technological Innovation

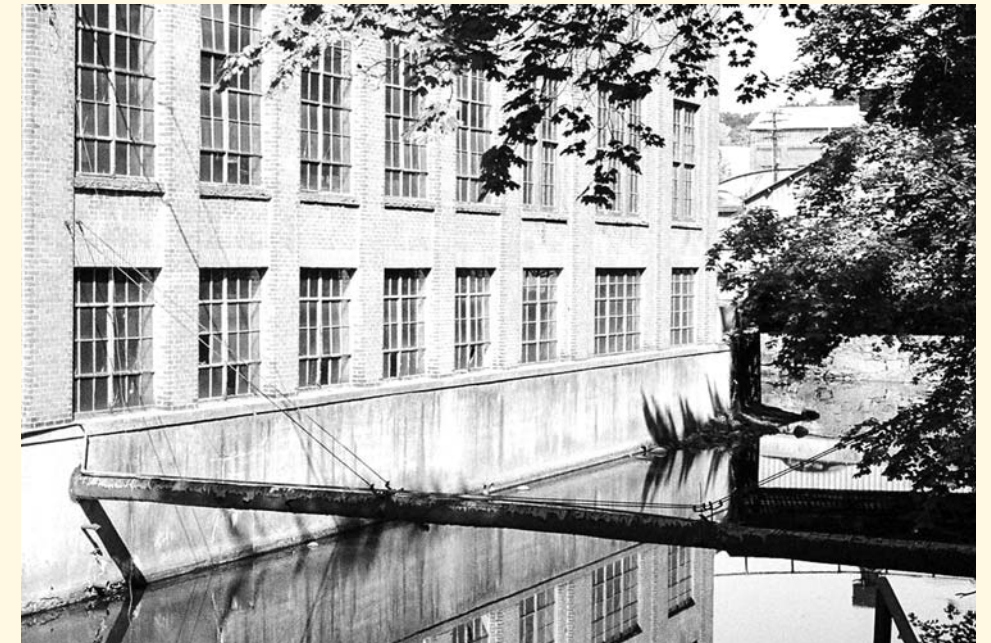
The state's economic development agencies and the University of Connecticut are required to create a network through which university scientists and business researchers can find new ways to apply research and new technologies under another law I supported.

Nurturing Innovative New Companies

I voted for a law establishing the Connecticut New Opportunities Fund to invest in newly formed Connecticut companies that cannot raise venture capital or face other barriers despite the potential demand for their products or services.



Representative Stripp and state Senators Judith Freedman and John McKinney get together after a recent ribbon-cutting ceremony for Weston's new intermediate school. The legislators work as a team to ensure continued funding for school construction projects in Easton, Redding and Weston.



The Norwalk River flows past the historic Gilbert & Bennett factory in the Georgetown Village section of Redding. Representative Stripp shepherded a landmark bill through the Connecticut General Assembly that allowed tax-free bonding to pay for an environmental cleanup at the site.

Consumer Protection

I supported a law to help protect consumers from becoming victims of identity theft and bank fraud. I also voted for legislation prohibiting the sale of gift certificates with expiration dates to enable people who receive gift cards to redeem them when they choose to do so; and for an act that prohibits cell phone companies from disclosing a customer's cell phone number, name, or address to another person without the subscriber's permission.

State Budget

The legislature adopted a \$31-billion, two-year budget that raised spending 9 percent the first year and 12 percent over two years. The budget increases taxes on employers and on estates valued at more than \$2 million and violates the state's constitutional spending cap. I could not support the excessive spending and tax increases this budget mandates.

Preventing Exploitation of Seniors

I supported legislation that classifies as an unfair insurance practice certain annuity sales practices in which annuities are sold to senior consumers without regard to their financial situation or needs.

Coverage for Breast Cancer Screening

I voted for an act that requires insurers to offer both mammography and magnetic resonance imaging as options for breast cancer screening for women with family histories of breast cancer.

Protecting Children's Health

To prevent children from being exposed to harmful chemicals, I voted for a law that prohibits the application of pesticides on the grounds of public and private schools, and child day care centers, except to eliminate an immediate threat to human health.

Restricted Driving

Under a law I supported, 16- and 17-year olds learning to drive under learner's permits now are required to have a minimum of twenty instead of eight hours of behind-the-wheel instruction before they qualify for drivers' licenses.